



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 7

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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: April 4, 2012

FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison

W.I. 1114

RE: Staff Liaison Report – April 2012

Policy Advisory Council Vacancy Recruitment

Staff will begin recruiting this month for several vacancies on the Policy Advisory Council. Currently there are four vacancies: three in the area of equity (senior, disabled, minority or low-income representatives) in San Francisco, Sonoma and Marin counties, and one at-large seat (from any Bay Area county) representing either the economy or the environment.

If you know of someone who might be qualified to fill one of these vacancies, please have them check the web site at http://www.mtc.ca.gov/get_involved/advisory/ for more information or contact Pam Grove at 510.817.5706.

March Policy Advisory Council Report to Commission

At the March 28th Commission meeting, Vice Chair Terplan presented the report from the March meeting of the Policy Advisory Council. You will recall there were two motions passed at your March 14th meeting: one related to the Transit Sustainability Project and one regarding the Draft Preferred Land-Use Scenario.

I am attaching a copy of the memo containing those motions, which was forwarded to the Commission as part of the March 28th report. If you wish to hear the report in its entirety, you can listen in via the Commission meeting online archive at <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/meetings/archive/>

The Select Committee on Transit Sustainability will consider Transit Sustainability Project recommendation at its meeting on Wednesday, April 11th. The recommendations establish performance metrics and targets, investment and incentive programs, and additional focused policy efforts related to cost, service, and institutional arrangements.

The motion by the Policy Advisory Council to support the staff recommendation, noting the importance of developing an appropriate enforcement policy and incentives to growth ridership, and continuing support for Lifeline services, will be formally communicated to the Select Committee.

California Household Travel Survey

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is conducting a comprehensive two-phase “California Household Travel Survey” with support from the California Energy Commission and all 18 Metropolitan Planning Organizations in California, including MTC.

MTC is contributing funding to the statewide effort to increase the Bay Area survey size. In total, approximately 10,000 Bay Area households are being surveyed about their demographic and travel characteristics. Data collected by the travel survey will be used to better understand the travel behavior of different groups within the Bay Area and to inform transportation funding and policy decisions.

The survey will continue until February 2013. Additional information can be found at <http://www.californiatravelssurvey.com/>.

From the Executive Director’s Report

The following items of interest were in the March 2012 Executive Director’s Report to the Commission:

- ***Senate Passes Transportation Bill — Washington, DC, March 14***
By a wide margin of 74-22, the United States Senate passed its surface transportation reauthorization bill known as Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP 21). The central provisions of the bill were co-authored by Senators Barbara Boxer and James Inhofe, the Chair and Ranking Member, respectively, of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Although the bi-partisan nature of the bill and voting result has been rightly hailed, what the two parties could actually agree to was fairly modest: a two-year reauthorization with a slight up-tick in funding and the beginnings of much-needed programmatic reforms.

Meanwhile, chaos still reigns on this subject in the House of Representatives. After the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s five-year bill failed to garner even sufficient Republican votes on the House floor to seek final passage, House leadership withdrew the bill. Speaker Boehner then began to float a series of trial balloons involving shorter or modified versions of the legislation, none of which apparently attracted enough support within the Republican caucus. It now appears the House will vote this week on a three-month extension of current law through June 30, 2012 – although what would be the 9th extension of SAFETEA faces uncertain prospects in the Senate.

- ***SR 237 Express Lane Debuts — Silicon Valley, March 15***
The Bay Area’s second high occupancy toll lane opened for business in mid-March at the interchange of State Route 237 and Interstate 880 in the vicinity of the Cities of Milpitas, San Jose, and Santa Clara. This new express lane is being administered by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, with the FasTrak® toll collection being conducted by BATA as is the case on the Sunol Grade express lane in Alameda County.

From the Executive Director's Report (continued)

- ***Peer Review Report on East Span Foundations — Oakland, March 23***

The Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee which I chair released findings late last week by the independent Seismic Safety Peer Review Panel confirming the integrity of the tower foundation and overall seismic safety of the new east span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. We commissioned this review following the disclosure that a Caltrans materials technician who had falsified test results on other projects also had done testing work on the tower foundation for the new east span. The Peer Review Panel will now turn its attention to the other two major toll bridge projects that the technician worked on: the Bay Bridge West Approach project in San Francisco and the new Benicia-Martinez Bridge.

To read the entire Executive Director's report to the Commission, go to http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/ed_report.htm.



Agenda Item 3

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Memorandum

TO: MTC Commission
DATE: March 26, 2012

FR: MTC Policy Advisory Council
W.I. 1114

RE: Comments on TSP Project and Plan Bay Area Preferred Draft Land Use Scenario

MTC's Policy Advisory Council met on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 to review the latest updates to the Transit Sustainability Project (TSP) and review the Plan Bay Area Preferred Draft Land Use Scenario.

The Council supports the latest staff recommendations on the Transit Sustainability Project, but feels it is important to ensure an appropriate enforcement policy and to provide incentives for the operators to grow ridership and continue important Lifeline service.

In addition, the Council generally supports the direction of the proposed Plan Bay Area Preferred Draft Land-Use Scenario in that it focuses the Bay Area's growth in a more concentrated manner. The Council also makes the following recommendations to the Commission:

1. MTC should develop specific policies to help achieve a more concentrated and focused growth pattern.
2. As MTC funds projects in the RTP, the allocations should be done in accordance with the land use vision and goals of the adopted scenario. In addition, the Council strongly recommends that policies be put in place to address the issue of housing affordability.